GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6082
ANSWERED ON:11.04.2017
Trade of Organic Food
Devi Smt. Veena

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the yearly trade of organic foods such as pulses and foodgrains has been estimated to be worth around Rs. 3,350 crore in the country;
(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto;
(c) whether this trade is growing at the rate of 20% to 30% each year, if so, the details thereof; (d) whether there is a lack of proper regulation in this trade; and
(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c) : As per a study by Assocham and TechSci Research, the size of Indian organic foods market was estimated to be around ` 3,350 crores in 2016, which may treble in the next four years and has the potential to grow more than 25 per cent annually.

Government of India is encouraging organic farming through the dedicated schemes of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) viz. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). Other schemes supporting organic farming include National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) Network Project on Organic Farming, etc.

(d) & (e) : The Ministry of Commerce & Industry has notified the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) under the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act, 1992 to facilitate export of organic products. Further, the Ministry of the Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare has formulated the Organic Agricultural Produce Grading and Marking Rules, 2009 under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. The standards prescribed under these Rules are voluntary in nature. Under the Participatory Guarantee System of the Ministry of the Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the farmers can get their organic produce certified. In addition, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, has formulated specific standards for organic products.

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